

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO USNNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069819

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LINES 5, 6, 7 OMMITTED)
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: FLEXIBILITY STUDIES

REF: A) USNATO 1605, DTG 221020Z MAR 77

-- B) USNATO 1693, DTG 241824Z MAR 77

-- C) STATE 43042, DTG 231923Z FEB 76

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1. WE CONCUR IN MISSION POSITION PARA 2, REFTEL B.
2. WITH REGARD TO NPW VISITS, WE SEE NO NEED FOR ANY FORMAL ACTION BY DRC, EXCEPT POSSIBLY EXPRESSION OF DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUED COOPERATION AND CLOSE COOPERATION ON A BILATERAL BASIS IN SUPPORT OF PORT VISITS WHEN REQUESTED.

YOU MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING AS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSSION:
NOTICEABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN OBTAINING NPW ACCESS
TO PORTS IN NATO COUNTRIES. IN ORDER TO MEET OUR NATO
COMMITMENTS WITH OUR NEWEST AND MOST CAPABLE SHIPS, WE
HAVE DEPLOYED NPWS IN GREATER NUMBERS. AS WITH ANY
DEPLOYED SHIP, NPW REQUIRE PERIODIC PORT VISITS FOR CREW
REST AND RECREATION, LOGISTIC SUPPORT, OPERATIONAL BRIEFINGS
AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE. WE BELIEVE CONTINUED COOPERATION
AND CLOSE COORDINATION ON A BILATERAL BASIS TO SUPPORT THE
PORT VISITS REQUESTED WILL ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO DISCHARGE
THE NATO COMMITMENTS FOR WHICH THESE SHIPS DEPLOY.

3. FYI. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE STUDY SUBJECT, AS
PRESENTED IN REFERENCE C, MAY BE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRE-
TATION OR THE SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO USG AND NATO
ALLIES. WE WOULD NOT ASK THAT NATO COUNTRIES MAKE ALL
PORTS AVAILABLE SINCE THERE ARE MANY DOMESTIC PORTS WHICH
US NPWS DO NOT VISIT NOR WOULD WE AUTHORIZE A NATO ALLY'S
NPW TO VISIT THEM. IN ADDITION, THIS ITEM MAY GIVE RISE
TO PROPOSALS SIMILAR TO A PREVIOUS ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR A
NATO UMBRELLA ARRANGEMENT THAT WAS REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY
1976 AND REJECTED (SEE REF C). SINCE SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES
HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING ON THE NPW VISIT ISSUE
EVEN THOUGH OTHERS CURRENTLY DO NOT SUPPORT NPW VISITS,
ANY PROPOSAL FOR A NATO-WIDE REVIEW OF A POLICY WITH BROAD
APPLICABILITY MIGHT CREATE POTENTIAL CONTROVERSY THAT
COULD UNDERMINE EXISTING ACCESS WHILE HOLDING OUT LITTLE
HOPE FOR NATO-WIDE CONSENSUS. END FYI.

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CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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